

the cardinal virtues. It furnishes a guide in deportment for a courtier.

Certain Ecloges of Alexander Barclay also contains treatises on virtues and qualities desirable for courtiers and all princes in general.

Il Galateo or A Treatise on Politeness and Delicacy of Manners is a "frank handbook of manners, a manual for the school-boy and the parvenu, and became popular in England under the titles of Refined Courtier and the like, given to it by later editors and adapters".<sup>1</sup> Its purpose is aptly stated in the preface: "As you are now just entering upon the journey of life, which I, as you see, have already in a great measure performed, I determined with myself, from the sincere affection which I bear you, to point out some few dangerous parts of the road."<sup>2</sup> Critics have pronounced this treatise in its usefulness in regulating the manners of youth 'to be worth its weight in gold.' The title, Il Galateo, is in compliment to an old courtier of that name, distinguished by his wit, learning, and politeness in the palace of John Matthew Gilbert, bishop of Verona.<sup>3</sup> The book contains no plot; it is merely a series of discourses. On the title page of the edition of Baltimore, 1811, is the following quotation from Lord Chesterfield's Letters to His Son.

"To do the honour of a table gracefully, is one of the outlines of a well-bred man; and to carve well, little as it may seem,

1. Cambridge History of English Literature, vol. III, p 497.

2. Il Galateo, Introduction, p 15.

3. Galateo, Preface.